

**In the claims:**

Please **amend** the currently pending claims by substituting the following:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A data set selecting apparatus connectable to an external storage device, wherein said storage device stores a plurality of data sets that are grouped into a plurality of data groups, a plurality of external storage devices, each storage device including a plurality of storage areas, each storage area being correspondingly allotted to each of a plurality of data groups and storing a plurality of data sets that belong to the allotted data group, said apparatus comprising:

a display screen;

~~a storage device selector for selecting a storage device from amongst said plurality of external storage devices;~~

a plurality of data group ~~selection~~ selecting controls, each data group selecting control being allocated to each of said data groups;

a plurality of data set selecting controls that are three-dimensional controls located separately in the vicinity of said display screen;

an initial page setting device for designating, as an initial page data set, a desired data set from amongst the plurality of data sets that belong to a desired data group as selected by a user by means of a desired one of said plurality of data group selecting controls; and

~~a data group allocator for individually allocating, to each of said plurality of data group selecting controls, each of said data groups corresponding allotted to each of said plurality of storage areas included in said storage device selected by said storage device selector, wherein said plurality of data group selecting controls are capable of selecting said allocated data groups;~~

a display controller which causes said display screen to list a plurality of identifiers, each representing each of at least a part of said plurality of data sets belonging to ~~said-selected~~ a desired data group which is selected by the user by means of the data group selecting control that is allocated to said desired data group such that an order of identifiers to be listed on said screen is determined by said initial page data set and that each of said listed plurality of identifiers is exhibited on said display screen at a location corresponding to and in the vicinity of each of said plurality of data set selecting controls that are thus allocated to said listed identifiers, wherein operating each of said plurality of data set selecting controls causes selection of the data set indicated by the identifier allocated to the operated data set selecting control ~~as-selected by said allocated data group selecting control;~~ and

~~a plurality of data set selecting controls, each of which is correspondingly allocated for each of said identifiers being listed on said display screen and selects a data set represented by said identifier allotted to said each data set selecting control, wherein said data set selecting controls are three-dimensional controls located separately and outside of the display screen, each of which are correspondingly located near the allocated identifier listed.~~

Claim 2 (original) A data set selecting apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a control panel, and wherein said display screen is provided on said control panel, and said data group selecting controls are arranged on said control panel.

3. (currently amended) A method for selecting data sets from among data sets stored in an external storage device storing a plurality of data sets that are grouped into a plurality of data groups, ~~a plurality of external storage devices, each including a plurality of storage areas, each storage area being correspondingly allotted to each of a plurality of data groups and storing a plurality of data sets which belong to the allotted data group~~, said method comprising:

a step of selecting a storage device from amongst said plurality of external storage devices;

a step of individually allocating, to each of a plurality of data group selecting controls, one each of said data groups ~~correspondingly allotted to each of said plurality of storage areas included in said storage device selected by said step of selecting a storage device~~;

a step of selecting a data group including the data sets belonging thereto ~~and stored in the allotted storage area of said selected storage device~~, by using a plurality of data group selecting controls;

a step of setting an initial page data set by designating a desired data set from among the plurality of data sets that belong to the data group as selected by said step of selecting a data group;

a step of displaying, on a display screen, a list of identifiers, each representing each of said data sets included in said selected data group; and

a step of selecting a data set from among the data sets correspondingly represented by said listed identifiers, by using a plurality of data set selecting controls, each of which is correspondingly allocated ~~for each~~ to one of said data set displayed individually, wherein said plurality of data set selecting controls are three-dimensional controls located separately and outside of the display screen, each of which are correspondingly located near the allocated identifier listed, wherein an order of identifiers to be listed on said display screen is determined by said initial page data set and each of said listed plurality of identifiers is exhibited on said display screen at a location

corresponding to and in the vicinity of each of said plurality of data set selecting controls which are thus allocated to said listed identifiers, and wherein the operating of the data set selecting controls cause a selection of the data set corresponding to the identifier that corresponds to the operated data set selecting control.

4. (currently amended) A storage medium for use in an apparatus for selecting data sets, said apparatus being of a data processing type comprising a processor ~~computer~~, a display screen, a plurality of data group selecting controls, and a plurality of data set selecting controls, said ~~storage medium apparatus being connectible to an external storage device storing a plurality of data sets that are grouped into a plurality of data groups, a plurality of external storage devices, each storage device including a plurality of storage areas, each storage area being correspondingly allotted to each of a plurality of data groups and storing a plurality of data sets which belong to the allotted data group;~~ said plurality of data set selecting controls being three-dimensional controls located separately and outside of the display screen, each of which are correspondingly located near the an allocated identifier displayed on said display screen, ~~listed,~~ and said medium containing a set of executable instructions for causing ~~a computer~~ the processor to perform the steps of:

~~receiving input for selecting a storage device from amongst said plurality of external storage devices;~~

~~individually allocating, to each of a plurality of data group selecting controls, each one of said data groups correspondingly allotted to each of said plurality of storage areas included in the selected storage device;~~

~~selecting a data group including data sets belonging thereto and stored in the allotted storage area of said storage medium, by using a plurality of data group selecting controls, each of which is correspondingly allocated for each to one of said plurality of data groups individually;~~

for a selected data group, setting an initial page data set by designating a desired data set from amongst the plurality of data sets that belong to the data group as selected by said step of selecting a data group;

displaying, on said display screen, a list of identifiers, each identifier representing a corresponding one of data sets of a data group selected by the user ~~each of said data sets included in said selected data group~~; and

selecting a data set from among the data sets correspondingly represented by said listed identifiers, wherein each of data set selecting controls is correspondingly allocated for each of said data set individually, wherein the range and the order of the listed identifiers are determined by said initial page data set, and each of said listed plurality of identifiers is exhibited on said display screen at a location corresponding to and in the vicinity of each of said plurality of data set selecting controls that are thus allocated to said listed identifiers, and wherein operating each of said plurality of data set selecting controls causes selection of the data set indicated by the identifier allocated to the operated data set selecting control

~~receiving input from said data set selecting controls for selecting a data set from among the data sets correspondingly represented by said listed identifiers, wherein each of data set selecting control is correspondingly allocated for each of said data set individually.~~

Claim 5 (new) A data set selecting apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said display controller causes said display screen to display the identifier with the identifiers representing said initial page data set being located at the top of the listed plurality of identifiers.